

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 L-02 MC-02 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6489

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

S E C R E T MEXICO 1894

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJ: U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: AMBASSADOR'S ASSESSMENT

QUARRY HTS FOR SC-O, STATE PASS TO AID AND TO DOD FOR JCS

REF: STATE 15489

1. SUMMARY: I HAVE REVIEWED THE EXISTING AND PLANNED SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT REVISION OF THE POM. I AM IN ACCORD WITH RECOMMENDATIONS MADE THEREIN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN MEXICO FOR FY 1976 IS SMALL. IT CONSISTS OF \$100,000 FOR A GRANT MILITARY PROGRAM AND 5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FMS CREDIT (WHICH HERETOFORE HAS NOT BEEN USED BY MEXICANS). ACCORDINGLY, THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT REQUESTED BY PARA 3B(3) OF REFTEL B IS OF A SUMMARY NATURE.

3. THE OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN PARA 6A OF THE REFTEL CONTINUE TO BE ESSENTIALLY APPLICABLE IN THE CASE OF MEXICO. OF THESE, THE SECOND OBJECTIVE, TO FOSTER ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S. AND ITS POLICIES, IS THE MOST PERTINENT PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO THE MEXICAN MILITARY. SPECIFICALLY, THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ENHANCE THE FAVORABLE DISPOSITION OF THE MEXICAN MILITARY

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TOWARD THE U.S. THE SMALL SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS

UNOBTRUSIVELY ORIENTED TO THIS END. I STILL BELIEVE THAT THE RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM STAND AS PROOF OF THE SOUNDNESS IN APPROACH.

4. A CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS PATTERNS IS BOTH HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND THE MOST (PERHAPS ONLY) FEASIBLE PROGRAM VIS-A-VIS MEXICO. THE GOM TRADITIONALLY HAS ESCHEWED BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THE PRIMARY REASONING BEHIND THIS STANCE IS A DETERMINATION TO REMAIN FREE FROM ANY CONCEIVABLE OUTSIDE INFLUENCE WHICH MIGHT ACCRUE AS A RESULT OF SUCH PROGRAMS. TO MEXICO'S GREAT CREDIT AND OUR OWN COMFORT, IT HENCE HAS NOT BEEN NECESSARY, NOR DO WE FORESEE SUCH POSSIBILITY, FOR THE USG TO ENGAGE IN BROADER PROGRAMS.

5. THERE ARE STRONG ARGUMENTS FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT LEVEL OF GRANT MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE. I AM CONVINCED, AND MY COUNTRY TEAM CONCURS, THAT THE FAVORABLE ORIENTATION OF THE LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE MEXICAN MILITARY IS DUE IN GOOD MEASURE TO THE LONG TRADITION OF TRAINING BASED ON THE U.S. MODEL OR ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT UNDER U.S. AUSPICES. THIS GOOD WILL CANNOT BE TAKEN FORGRANTED BECAUSE OF MEXICO'S SENSITIVITY. ANY FURTHER REDUCTION OR PRECONDITIONS ON THE LIMITED GRANT AID TRAINING COULD CAUSE MEXICO TO DROP GRANT AID ALTOGETHER AS THEY DID IN 1973 WHEN THE 10 PERCENT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT WAS IMPOSED. REDUCTION COULD ALSO PRECLUDE ACHIEVEMENT OF U.S. GOALS FOR MEXICO FOR A MORE RESPONSIBLE AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE ON DEFENSE COMMITMENTS UNDER THE INTERAMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE. ADDITIONALLY, REDUCTION MIGHT FURTHER REDUCE U.S. INFLUENCE WITH HOST COUNTRY MILITARY AND THEREBY IMPACT ON FUTURE PURCHASE OF U.S. MILITARY ITEMS.

6. THE POSSIBILITY OF THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES CANNOT BE IGNORED, AS EVIDENCED BY THE RECENT PURCHASES FROM THE UK, ISRAEL, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND. MEXICAN PURCHASES ARE NOT NECESSARILY BASED ON COMPARATIVE PRICES OR RELATED ITEMS SUCH AS AVAILABILITY, CREDIT TERMS, DELIVERY LEAD TIMES AND SUPPORT COSTS. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF PAYOFFS SO THAT EVEN IF THE U.S. PROVIDES THE BEST OFFER, THE PURCHASE MAY BE MADE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS OF ANY INTEREST IN TURNING TO SOCIALIST BLOC SOURCES OF SUPPLY, AND I SEE NO SECURITY FACTORS

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WHICH SHOULD CAUSE US CONCERN IN THE PRESENT PATTERN OF MEXICAN ARMS PURCHASES, ALTHOUGH WE MAY ON OCCASION LOSE A COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY.

7. THE MEXICAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN EQUIPPED WITH U.S.-MANUFACTURED HARDWARE. THE EXISTING INVENTORY IS GENERALLY OBSOLETE AND MODERNIZATION HOPEFULLY WILL BE ESCALATED DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE PRESENT POM REVISION.

MODERNIZATION CANNOT BE LONG DETERRED WITHOUT A REDUCTION IN
MILITARY CAPABILITIES. I BELIEVE IT TO BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS
OF THE USG FAVORABLY TO CONSIDER ASSISTING THE MEXICAN MILITARY
IF AND AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH
ASSISTANCE WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF GRANTING FAVORABLE TERMS ON
DIRECT CAST OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT OR THROUGH USE OF FMS CREDIT --
I.E. NOT IN FORM OF GRANTS.
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